

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 10-20 are withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the teleconference today, January 3, 2008.

In the aforementioned teleconference, Applicants inquired as to the reasons for the continued rejection under 102(c) based on the primary reference of Manginell et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,527,835 ("Manginell") in view of the response dated September 14, 2007 and the Declaration that was previously filed under 1.131 in the response filed August 7, 2006 and resubmitted in the response filed December 29, 2006.

Agreement was reached that the Declaration would be considered in view of the foregoing and the next Office Action will not be final.

Accordingly, and in light of the foregoing, Applicants incorporate by reference herein the response/arguments made in the September 14, 2007, December 29, 2006 and August 7, 2006 responses, and direct the examiner's attention to the Declaration filed August 7, 2006.

In the Office Action on page 2, paragraph 1, claims 1-2, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,527,835 to Manginell.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Based on the foregoing, including the arguments and Declaration filed August 7, 2006 and resubmitted December 29, 2006, Manginell is effectively removed as a reference, hence the rejection based thereon should be withdrawn.

On pages 3-7 of the Office Action, paragraphs 3-7, a variety of rejections were made under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) using Manginell as the primary reference. Because Manginell is removed as a reference, these rejections are likewise overcome. Applicants respectfully request these rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants request the rejection on page 4, paragraph 5 be withdrawn, as it relates to claims 14-15 and 18-20, which are withdrawn claims.

Applicants submit that all claims pending in the patent application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited. In the event there are any fees due and owing in connection with this matter,

please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Dated: January 3, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

s/Timothy X. Gibson/

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